**Encouragement to Importers and Exporters Under Duty Exemption Scheme**

2085. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what encourgement is given to the importers and exporters under duty exemption scheme; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Under the Duty Exemption Schemes, import of raw-materials, intermediates, components, consumables, parts, accessories, spares (not exceeding 5% of the CIF value of licence), packing materials and computer software required for the product to be exported are permitted duty free for processing and export.

The exporters are also entitled to transfer their licences or the materials imported against these licences after completing exports and after getting the redemption as well as endorsement of transferability from the Licensing Authority.

**Export of Steel**

2086. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries to which steel is being exported at present;

(b) whether the export of steel has declined in comparison to the last year; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the schemes formulated to boost the export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) steel from India is exported to various countries including China, Japan, USA, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Australia and Germany.

(b) The export of steel during the period April-September, 95 of 95-96 has increased to Rs. 749 crores from Rs. 484 crores during the corresponding period of previous year registering an increase of 54% in value terms.

(c) Does not arise.

**Funding of Consumer Welfare Organisations**

2087. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments have been requesting for adequate funding of Consumer Welfare Organisations;

(b) whether there is a specific fund to assist State Government in this regard;

(c) whether any request has been received from Andhra Pradesh so far during 1995-96 in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) The Consumer Welfare Fund in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has been designed with the specific objective of funding Government/non-Governmental Organisations for purposes of Consumer Welfare, protection and spread of Consumer awareness.

(c) and (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested for